

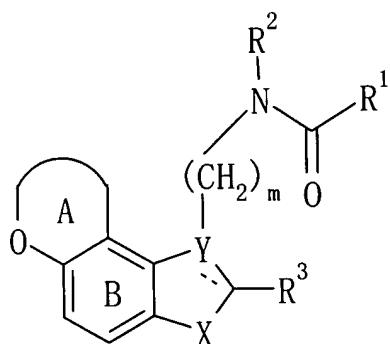
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 4 17 ~~containing comprising~~ a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, ~~and~~ a fatty acid ester, a polyhydric alcohol and ~~a nonionic surfactant lauric diethanolamide or a compound including the same.~~

Claim 3 (Original): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 2, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound having a melatonin ML₁ receptor agonist activity.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 4 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R¹ represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R² represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

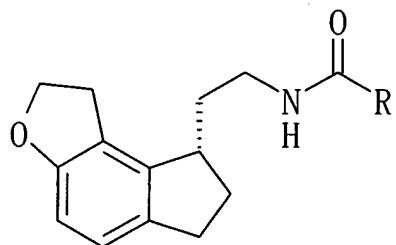
R³ represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR⁴, NR⁴, O or S in which R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C, CH or N, provided that when X is CH₂, Y is C or CH;

----- represents a single bond or a double bond;
ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;
ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and
m represents an integer of 1 to 4;
or a salt thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is an ester of a carboxylic acid having 6 to 22 carbon atoms and an alkyl alcohol having 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, butyl myristate, or diethyl sebacate.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the fatty acid ester is isopropyl myristate.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, glycerin or polyethylene glycol.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is propyleneglycol propylene glycol.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is polyethylene glycol.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of about 200 to about 1000.

Claims 15-16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 16, wherein the fatty acid amide is comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide or a compound including the same, and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 4 containing comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]propionamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethyleneglycol polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 4 containing comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethyleneglycol polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 4 17 which is a skin plaster.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 4 17 containing in a skin contact member a, wherein the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity and, the lauric diethanolamide or the compound including the same, and the optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters, and polyhydric alcohols and nonionic surfactants, are contained in a skin contact member.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 containing in a skin contact member, wherein the a compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity, and a fatty acid ester, a polyhydric alcohol and a nonionic surfactant the lauric diethanolamide or the compound including the same, are contained in the skin contact member.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 containing in, wherein the a skin contact member, an comprises about 1 to about 30% by weight of fatty acid ester with respect to a the weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~eontaining in, wherein the~~ a skin contact member, ~~an~~ comprises about 1 to about 30% by weight of polyhydric alcohol with respect to a ~~the~~ weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~eontaining in, wherein the~~ a skin contact member, ~~an~~ comprises about 1 to about 15% by weight of ~~nonionic surfactant~~ lauric diethanolamide with respect to a ~~the~~ weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~eontaining in, wherein the~~ a skin contact member, includes an adhesive agent.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~22~~ 27, wherein the adhesive agent is an acrylic adhesive agent.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 ~~eontaining in, wherein the~~ a skin contact member, comprises ~~an~~ about 0.01 to about 70% by weight of the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity with respect to a ~~the~~ weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim ~~22~~ 27 ~~eontaining in, wherein the~~ a skin contact member, comprises ~~an~~ about 5 to about 99% by weight of the adhesive agent with respect to a ~~the~~ weight of the skin contact member.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22, ~~wherein a content of which comprises about 0.01 to about 100 mg/cm² of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity per unit skin contact surface of a the skin contact member is about 0.01 to about 100 mg/cm².~~

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 22 containing in a, wherein the skin contact member, further comprises a filler.

Claim 33 (Original): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 32, wherein the filler is silicon dioxide.

Claim 34 (Cancelled)

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17 which maintains an effective concentration of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity in blood for about 6 hours to about 12 hours.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17 which maintains an effective concentration of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity in blood until about 1 to about 2 hours before waking up.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim + 17, wherein an effective blood concentration of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity exhibits a one peak pattern within 12 hours after administration.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 37, wherein a peak of the effective blood concentration of the compound having a the melatonin receptor agonist activity appears peaks within about 10 hours after administration.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A ~~preventive and therapeutic~~ method of treating diseases related to melatonin, characterized by which comprises administrating a ~~the~~ percutaneous absorption preparation ~~which contains a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, and one or more members selected from fatty acid esters, polyhydric alcohols and nonionic surfactants according to claim 17 to a patient with a melatonin related disease.~~

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A method for percutaneous absorption ~~method of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering wherein the~~ the percutaneous absorption preparation ~~contains a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity and one or more members selected from fatty acid esters, polyhydric alcohols and nonionic surfactants according to claim 17 to a patient with a melatonin related disease.~~

Claim 41 (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (New): The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.